

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, January 27, 2011

The meeting was held at the Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Charlie Wood and Tom Pentalow. Also present was Michael Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – December 16, 2010.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2010. The motion was seconded by Charlie Wood and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – December 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements - None.

E. Old Business.

1. Cottone Field Fundraising Campaign.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Cottone Lights Committee has been collecting the pledges to fund the lights at the football field. Their goal is to collect all the pledged funds by the first week in February and have the lights installed by August 2011. The Town has hired an engineer to develop the bid specs and the plan is to go out to bid by March 1.

2. Willard Pool Filters

Ms. Bagley reported that she met with the Town Manager to discuss this project. The architect has estimated a replacement cost of \$80,000 for the pool filters. Ms. Bagley identified funds in the Park and Recreation Escrow account to pay for the replacement of the filters. Currently the fund has an unexpended balance of approximately \$50,000. Originally these funds were earmarked to help with a possible loan for the Cottone Lights project. These funds are no longer needed for that project. This fund also has received money from Little League repaying their loan for the lights on the Mill Woods Little League field. Little League has paid back \$20,000 towards their loan of \$50,000 (\$10,000 each year for five years). The fund also has \$17,000 that was earmarked by the Town to take when needed. These funds are available. The Town Manager will present this project to the Town Council on February 7 for approval to use these funds for this project. The plan is to go out to bid in February, if the Town Council approves the use of these funds with the project being completed by June 1.

3. Status on Cove Docks Application to State DEP.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this project. She explained that the engineering firm is still putting together all the final information requested by the State for the application to replace the Cove Docks and Boat Launch Ramp. Tentative timetable is to submit the application in February if the State does not request any more information. The State DEP will take up to a year to review and hopefully approve the application.

4. Harbor Management Commission.

The Town Manager is still reviewing the Board's request to be appointed the Town's Harbor Management Commission. He has requested additional information on what policies other Towns have with Harbor Management Commissions. The staff is collecting this information for him.

Tom Pentalow asked Ms. Bagley if Tom Mull, Yacht Club Representative, had spoken with her about this project. She had talked with Tom Mull, but the subject of the dock replacement project did not come up. Tom Pentalow thought that Yacht Club members had some questions about the Harbor Management Commission and its role overseeing the Cove. The Yacht Club members had received some preliminary information from Charlie Forsdick, Deputy Harbor Master and were just looking for clarification on some items. Charlie Wood explained that the Commission has not been set up yet, so there is a lot of time for discussion on this issue. Other Board members concurred with him. Ms. Bagley will follow up with Tom Mull.

F. New Business.

1. Budget.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a report on the Park & Recreation budget for 2011-12. With her staff, she is putting together next year's budget request. The Town Manager has asked departments to come in with a zero increase and identify the cuts necessary to achieve this goal. The deadline for the budget is February 21. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Board will review the proposed budget at their meeting in February.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Charlie Wood and seconded by Tom Pentalow to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department